

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Womens Institute is a non-sectarian and non-partisan group of women whose membership is open to all ladies in the area who are interested in better homes and better ways of living. Their motto - "For Home and Country" - broadly interpreted, presents a very concise view of the aims and objectives of this important group.

The original organization, formed in 1897 by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, at the small village of Stoney Creek (just South of Hamilton, Ontario) was mainly interested in the improvement of the lot of the rural housewife, which, prior to that time, were most appalling. It will be remembered, of course that our Country was still in its infancy and therefore many of the most common of household conveniences were not even thought of, and therefore not available to our pioneer women. The original group had three main objectives; First, to help women to acquire approved practices for better home efficiency; Second, to discover and train more leaders, especially in matters of health, sanitation and better home conditions, and Third, to develop a more abundant life in our rural communities and deeper appreciation of those things then available.

The Norwood branch of this worthy organization was started in July of 1910 with Mrs. C. A. Brethen as its first President and Miss Vida MacNaughton as Secretary. This branch has continued to operate since that time, filling a role that might be duplicated, but never excelled by any other organization. They have sponsored many classes, designed to assist the home-makers such as, "Home Nursing", Health and Sanitation, Food courses, Dressmaking, Millinery and other courses essential in most of our homes. The Institute is devoted to the problem of assisting those families who find themselves in distress through misfortunes such as Fires, lengthy illness or bereavement. In emergencies such as these, the Institute is quickly on hand with clothing bedding or food as may be most necessary and immediately required.

On the Educational side, and in order to get better acquainted with the Province in which we live, the Institute has sponsored many Bus trips to various points of interest such as "Upper Canada Village" the "St. Lawrence Seaway", Historical points on the Georgian Bay, the Capital Buildings at Ottawa and many others, all of which are well patronized and greatly enjoyed by everyone. They have also sponsored a number of Public Speaking contests open to and contested by Public School pupils throughout the County of Peterborough. In addition or, perhaps as an extra inducement, the ladies have made regular donations of "Special Prizes" for similar competitions at the local Fall Fair.